ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A digital video data system automatically skips the playback of recorded video data to a position that corresponds to a transition between segments of the video data. Positions that are candidates for being segment transitions are identified by quantifying the rate of change of one or more parameters of the video data at multiple positions and determining positions for which the rate of change is locally maximal. Parameters such as luminance, I-frame frequency, and frame size tend to change most rapidly at segment transitions. Information relating to the change in the parameter values is stored with recorded video data so that it can be used to identify segment transitions during playback of the video data. During playback, and in response to user input, the system selects a position where the rate of change of parameter values is locally maximal and skips playback to that position.

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